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***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)**

Political Situation in South Vietnam: The Provisional National Assembly has overruled the recommendations of its special committee and voted to approve the Thieu-Ky presidential ticket and to disqualify General Duong Van Minh, along with six other slates.

Although an assembly reversal of the committee's decisions had been anticipated, the military reportedly applied pressure through progovernment deputies--including threats to void the constitution and arrest assemblymen--to ensure a favorable outcome. With Minh out of the race, Thieu, Tran Van Huong, and Phan Khac Suu emerge as the major contenders among the total of 11 candidates.

Meanwhile, two possible casualties resulting from the formation of the Thieu-Ky ticket may be moderate Buddhist leader Thich Tam Chau and Thich Tam Giac, head of the Vietnamese Army Buddhist Chaplains' Corps. Both Chau and Giac had voiced preferences for Ky, and, [redacted] both monks now claim that they have suffered loss of prestige and influence among the Buddhists because of Ky's agreement to take second place on the Thieu-Ky ticket. Vietnamese press sources report that Chau, soon to attend a conference abroad, may remain overseas until after the elections.

Military Situation in South Vietnam: In the last 24 hours there has been a comparative lull in the ground fighting in South Vietnam.

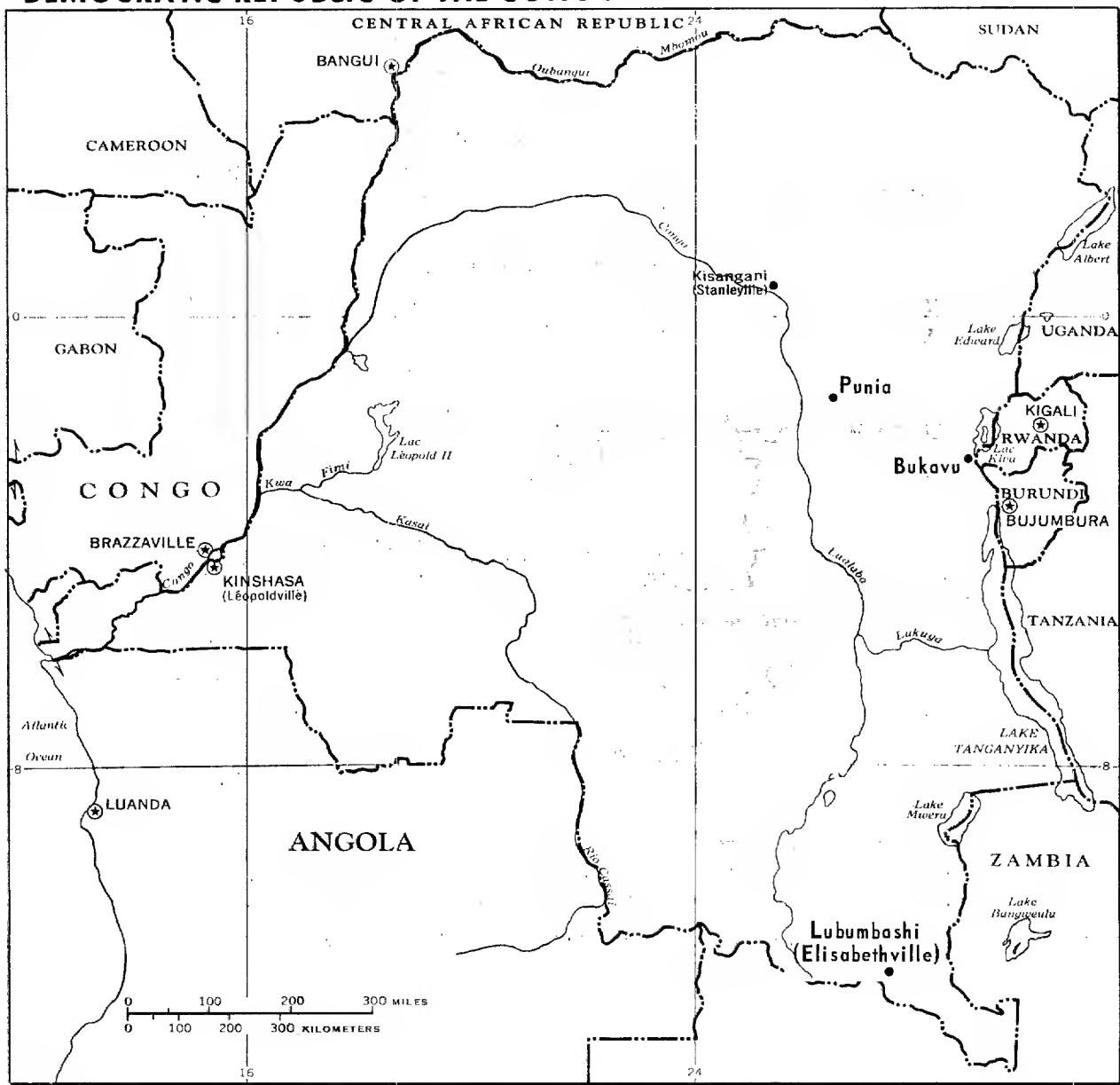
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



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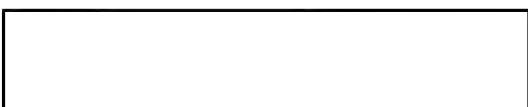
NOTES

Congo (Kinshasa): There is still no word on the exact whereabouts of the rebels. Rumors are circulating in Bukavu, however, that they have headed south from the Punia area, using roads not controlled by government troops. Meanwhile, in Lubumbashi (formerly Elisabethville) the US consul believes that unless President Mobutu quickly gives concrete guarantees to European mining technicians, many will try to move out, and the Congolese economy will decline further. *A Belgian official in Kinshasa, however, thinks the departures can be minimized.

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